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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 2-13 February 2015

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

1. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole. From 6 to [...] February 2015, the Working Group held three meetings, under the chairmanship of V. K. Dadhwal (India). The Working Group considered the item on space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, and the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2016. At its third meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

I. Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda

2. For its consideration of the item on space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, the Working Group had before it the documents referred to under item 5 of the agenda of the Subcommittee (see para. [...] in the main body of the report above).

3. The Working Group considered the conference room paper entitled "Revised draft proposed work plan for a mechanism of cooperative deliberation for space and sustainable development: bridging the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee" (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.15) and the note by the past, present and incoming chairs of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space entitled "2018 'UNISPACE+50' theme of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the

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Legal Subcommittee and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.30).

4. The Working Group agreed to the main proposal by the past, present and incoming chairs of the Committee (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.30), and requested the Secretariat, in close consultation with the past, present and incoming chairs of the Committee, to develop their proposal in further detail and present it in the six official languages of the United Nations for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-eighth session in June 2015, taking into account the following:

(a) The objective and main approach contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.15 should be consolidated with the preparatory work to be undertaken prior to the 2018 "UNISPACE+50" thematic cycle of the Committee;

(b) The preparatory work for 2018 could benefit from the work of the focused expert group on space and global health and the proposed new thematic priority for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: space technologies for monitoring and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.31);

(c) The following cross-cutting topics could be considered in presenting the unique role of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs: (a) governance, including the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, guidelines adopted by the Committee and General Assembly resolutions on outer space; (b) capacity-building, including activities of member States of the Committee and permanent observers to the Committee, and work undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the regional centres on space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations; (c) resiliency, including matters related to the ability to depend on space systems and to respond to the impact of events such as adverse space weather; (d) interoperability, including work done by the International Committee on GNSS and other coordination mechanisms; and (e) space for sustainable development, including consideration of the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/AC.105/993) and efforts by the Committee and its member States to meet global development goals.

5. The Working Group noted that the expert group on space and global health, established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-seventh session in 2014, had held its first meeting on 5 February 2015 on the margins of the present session of the Subcommittee.

6. The expert group on space and global health presented, under the leadership of Canada, its method and programme of work, including a concrete timeline, to the Working Group for its consideration at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.29).

7. At its second meeting, on 10 February 2015, the Working Group agreed on the mandate and workplan of the expert group, which read as follows:

(a) Mandate:

1. The focused expert group reviews and analyses current uses of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global

health needs in order to identify gaps, propose recommendations and provide orientation for the future work of the Subcommittee.

2. By holding work sessions on the margins of the sessions of the Subcommittee, the expert group provides a forum to enable Member States, international intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and their respective experts to share needs, opportunities, best practices and expertise to actively engage, link and enable use of space (technology, applications, practices, capacity-building and initiatives) for global health purposes.

3. By reporting to the Subcommittee through its Working Group of the Whole, the expert group increases awareness, engagement and promotion of collaborative and direct actions by Member States on this topic while concentrating their energy on achieving tangible and long-lasting results.

(b) Workplan: the activities of the expert group are planned over the next three years. The workplan of the expert group includes:

1. Review of the current and evolving state of affairs relative to the use of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global health needs and the specific scope of the expert group (2015).

2. Compile practices and initiatives, current or planned (concepts, science, capacity-building, operations) according to the proposed scope (mainly 2015-2016).

3. Analyse gaps and opportunities for future development and to enhance alignment with global health goals according to the current context (mainly 2016-2017).

4. Explore possible cooperative and user-driven solutions to address these gaps (mainly 2017-2018).

5. Continue efforts to promote the active engagement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other relevant national and international organizations in tangible actions in this domain (ongoing).

II. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

8. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2016, and agreed that the topic for the 2016 symposium to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), should be "The role of industry in space exploration".